

JUL 2 1963

Witness Resumes Story Of Mary Meyer Slaying

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A key government witness in the U.S. District Court trial of a Washington man accused of slaying Mary Pinchot Meyer was to resume the stand today and tell what he knows about the fatal shooting last Oct. 12.

The witness, Henry Wiggins Jr., 25, of 1323 Delafield Place NW, said he and another service station employee were working on a disabled car on Canal Road above the scene where Mrs. Meyer was shot twice. She was strolling along the Chesapeake & Ohio towpath, about three-quarters of a mile west of Key Bridge.

The defendant, Ray Crump Jr., 26, of the 1900 block of Stanton Terrace SE, is charged in an indictment with one count of first-degree murder. The trial is now in its third day before a jury of seven women and five men with Judge Howard F. Corcoran presiding.

Mrs. Meyer, a 43-year-old artist, was a niece of the late Gifford Pinchot, the noted conservationist and governor of Pennsylvania. A divorcee, she lived alone at 1523 34th St. NW.

Under questioning by Asst. U.S. Atty. Alfred Hantman, Wiggins said he crossed Canal Road and looked down toward the towpath less than a "fraction of a second" after he heard the second shot fired. He said he saw a man standing over the victim with his head lowered. "I didn't get a very good look at his face, but I did get a glance at him," he added.

Wiggins described the man as wearing a dark cap and a light jacket. He said he was "not too big or too small ... about medium. He weighed about 185." Crump is noticeably short and fairly slender.

Dr. Lynwood L. Rayford Jr.,

deputy coroner of the District, said the .38-caliber bullet that entered the victim's head was fired from less than six inches away, and that the bullet fired into her chest from the back was discharged less than 18 inches from her body. But under cross-examination by defense attorney Mrs. Dovey Roundtree, the doctor admitted that he could be mistaken.

The doctor also said that it was possible for Mrs. Meyer to run a distance from the spot where she was first attacked, even though a bullet was lodged in her head. The doctor then admitted to Mrs. Roundtree that the victim also could have been rendered unconscious from such a wound as soon as the bullet struck.

After a member of the National Park Service showed the jury the pedestrian exits from the canal area on a 30-foot map, he admitted to Mrs. Roundtree that he was not familiar with the area and could only testify as to the exits reproduced on his map. Hantman stated earlier that Crump was the only person found in the area after police blocked off these exits minutes after the shooting.

One of the first witnesses to testify yesterday was Benjamin C. Bradlee, Washington bureau chief of Newsweek magazine. He told the jury that he was a brother-in-law of the victim and had identified her body after the murder.